

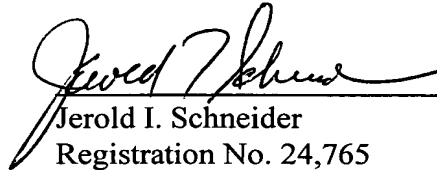
REMARKS

This is the entry into the U.S National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP00/04199 filed May 1, 2000. The foregoing amendments are to place this application into U.S. format. Claims 8 and 11 through 17 are pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is in condition for examination. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER MARBURY RUDNICK & WOLFE LLP



Jerold I. Schneider
Registration No. 24,765
Agent for Applicants

1200 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036-2412
Telephone No. (202) 861-3900
Facsimile No. (202) 223-2085